

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (*Canceled*)

8. (New) A device for locating the flow of a fluid in a graft or vein in the body of a patient, the device comprising:

a sensor configured to measure the value of a parameter in an area of the skin of a patient including the graft or vein to be located and to measure the value of the parameter in the area of the skin adjacent to the graft or vein to be located;

means for placing the sensor on the skin of the patient near the flow of fluid to be found;

means based on the measurements detected by the sensor for calculating:

(a) the optical attenuation coefficient (α) in an area of the skin that includes the graft or vein to be located;

(b) the optical attenuation coefficient (α_{o1}) in a first area adjacent to the graft or vein to be located;

(c) the optical attenuation coefficient (α_{o2}) in a second area adjacent to the graft or vein to be located;

means for measuring a reference ratio between the optical attenuation coefficient (α_{o1}) and the optical attenuation coefficient (α_{o2}); and

means for monitoring the reference ratio so that when the ratio reaches a certain value a signal indicates that the graft or vein is located.

9. (*New*) The device of claim 8 wherein the reference ratio is determined by solving the equation $(1 - \alpha_{o1}/\alpha_{o2})$ times 100.

10. (*New*) The device of claim 8 wherein the parameter is Hematocrit.